

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /095 W

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R 011600Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9448

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1658

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IN

SUBJECT: TEXTILE MACHINERY TRADE MISSION: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: NEW DELHI 1424

1. WITH PUBLICATION OF EDITORIAL IN BOMBAY FINANCIAL EXPRESS OF JANUARY 31 AND FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN DELHI PATRIOT OF FEBRUARY 1, MISSION VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY. GIST OF BOTH PIECES IS THAT WITH LOCAL TEXTILE MACHINERY OPERATING AT ONLY 50 PERCENT OF CAPACITY, POLICY OF MACHINERY IMPORTS DON'T MAKE SENSE. FINANCIAL EXPRESS EDITORIAL URGES GOI TO TAKE STEPS TO RELIEVE SHORTAGES OF KEY RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS STEEL, WHICH ARE CREATING IDLE CAPACITY IN LOCAL INDUSTRY. PATRIOT ARTICLE DESCRIBES SALES PROSPECTS FOR MISSION AS "BLEAK." ARTICLE REFERS TO RECENT STATEMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES MINISTER T.A. PAI TO EFFECT THAT THERE WILL BE NO IMPORTS OF TEXTILE MACHINERY DURING THE FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1974-79).

2. COMMENT: WE AND BOMBAY ARE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED BY THESE TWO ARTICLES. THE MISSION WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THE TEXTILE COMMISSION IN BOMBAY, A KEY GOI DECISION MAKING BODY. THE ARTICLE IN THE PATRIOT, A CPI ORIENTED PAPER, WHICH TRADITIONALLY HAS

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VERY FEW CHARITABLE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THE US, WAS TO BE EXPECTED.

DISCUSSIONS IN DELHI LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS
PIECE WAS A PLANT, PROBABLY DONE BY THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES MINISTRY
WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED IMPORTS OF MACHINERY WHERE
LOCAL SUBSTITUTES ARE AVAILABLE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE
COMMERCE MINISTRY NOT TO TAKE MR. PAI'S STATEMENT TOO SERIOUSLY.
WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF ARTICLES.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 01 FEB 1974
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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